



**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD BEFORE THE SENATE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON SB 23-189: INCREASING ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE**

March 15, 2023
Lindsey Vigoda, Colorado Director
Small Business Majority

Dear Chairwoman Fields and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lindsey Vigoda and I'm the Colorado Director for Small Business Majority, a small business organization with offices nationwide, including here in Colorado. Our mission is to empower America's diverse entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. We write today in support of SB 23-189, which will provide greater access to insurance-covered benefits for reproductive healthcare, and to explain why access to reproductive healthcare is vital to current and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Access to reproductive healthcare is an essential component of primary and preventative care, but high deductibles and gaps in coverage create barriers for patients to access these services. Although reproductive care is protected and legal in Colorado, we must ensure that these services are accessible and affordable for all so as to not deter them from seeking the care they need. This is particularly important to small businesses because they consistently rank the cost of healthcare as a top concern.

Additionally, [opinion polling](#) from Small Business Majority revealed access to reproductive health options is important to women small business owners, especially for women of color, and is a critical component of their ability to move forward in their careers and launch new businesses. In particular, 79% of women entrepreneurs agreed access to reproductive healthcare is paramount to their financial wellbeing. What's more, a majority said having health insurance coverage (87%) and access to reproductive healthcare to determine if and when to have children (56%) are fundamental to obtaining financial security.

The proposed legislation would also reduce surprise billing and remove patient cost-sharing for reproductive care services, including treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STI) and abortion care. Reducing surprise billing is particularly important to those in the small business community because these high costs affect business owners' bottom lines and their ability to have capital to run their business. Many small business owners and solo-entrepreneurs already pay more for coverage than their larger businesses and simply can't afford unexpected medical expenses that eat into their tight profits and prevent them from investing in their business.

What's more, eight states across the country already require private health insurance plans to cover abortion care with no copayments, and we believe Colorado should join these states to ensure that individuals in the small business community can access the care they need without facing significant financial barriers. Passing this bill will help close lingering gaps in patient coverage to safeguard the health of our job creators and workers across the state.

We urge you to support this legislation and thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,
Lindsey Vigoda
Colorado Director, Small Business Majority